

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/711,652

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Applicant(s)

RADU ET AL.

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/2/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2 and 4-8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>9-29-04</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance (9/24/05)

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Benintendi.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

1. An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:

a support; and

an ashtray coupled to said support and adapted to store one or more items, said ashtray comprising:

a compartment body defining a cavity adapted to store the one or more items and having an interior surface and an opening for gaining access to said cavity;

a cover coupled to said compartment body and moveable

between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening,
and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening; and

an electroluminescent lamp coupled to said interior surface of
said cavity adapted to illuminate said cavity when said cover is in the open position.

2. The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent lamp is molded
with the interior surface of said cavity.

3. Canceled

4. The trim assembly of claim 1 further comprising:

an electrical circuit for energizing said electroluminescent lamp.

5. The trim assembly of claim 4, wherein said electrical circuit comprises

a power source;

a first electrical connector coupled to said compartment body

and electrically coupled to said electroluminescent lamp; and

a second electrical connector coupled to said support and

electrically coupled to said power source, wherein said first electrical connector is electrically coupled to said second electrical connector when said ashtray is coupled to said support so as to energize said electroluminescent lamp.

6. The trim assembly of claim 4, further comprising:

an electrical switch having a first position that energizes the electroluminescent lamp and a second position that de-energizes the electroluminescent lamp.

7. The trim assembly of claim 6, wherein said electrical switch is in the first position when said cover is in the open position and said electrical switch is in the second position when said cover is in the closed position.

8. An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:

a support; and

an ashtray coupled to said support and adapted to store one or more items, said ashtray comprising:

a compartment body defining a cavity adapted to store the one

or more items and having an interior surface and an opening for gaining access to said cavity, said compartment body including a first connecting member integrally formed therein; and

a cover including a second connecting member integrally formed therein, said first connecting member cooperating with said second connecting member to couple said cover to said compartment body, said cover being moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening; and

an electroluminescent lamp coupled to said interior surface of said cavity and adapted to illuminate said cavity when said cover is in the open position.


3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "a compartment body defining a cavity adapted to store the one or more items and having an interior surface and an opening for gaining access to said cavity; a cover coupled to said compartment body and moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening; and an electroluminescent lamp

coupled to said interior surface of said cavity adapted to illuminate said cavity when said cover is in the open position" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
September 24, 2005